To Who It May Concern,

My name is Samuel Hill. I am a customer of T-Mobile and former customer of AT&T. I am also a former employee of T-Mobile and AT&T with nearly a decade experience in the telecommunications industry. I am writing you to day expressing my deep concern of the proposed buyout of T-Mobile by AT&T Mobility. My concern is that the buyout will create a dangerous situation for consumers. The current trend of further consolidation and monopolizing of the cellular and telecommunication industries will lead to poorer service, less choices, higher bills, and stagnation of development and deployment of new technologies.

As a customer T-Mobile provides me a great service at a great price. Where I live I spend about $67 dollars a month for cellular service, including taxes and fees. It comes with 500 minutes unlimited nights, weekends, mobile-to-mobile, SMS/MMS, and web browsing. The most simular plan from AT&T has 50 fewer minutes, only 5000 night and weekend minutes, has a limit of 2GB of data before overages kick in and cost $85 monthly before taxes. I have a Nexus One 3G phone and can normally pull around 5-7 Mbits/s download speeds on T-mobiles network. When I had a Blackjack 2, also a 3G phone, on AT&T my downloads speeds never topped 3 Mbits/s downloads. If the merger goes through I will undoubtedly while eventually be paying more for worst services. Even if AT&T grandfathers my current plan, when it comes time for me to purchase a new phone AT&T will make my current plan â€œincompatibleâ€ with their newer devices forcing me to their more expensive plans, just as Cingular did and is doing with AT&T customers when they merged.

AT&T claims the merger while allow â€œsynergiesâ€ to establish a larger 3G and 4G networks. My concern with this statement is this, AT&T is currently boasting about its 4G network and devices, yet it is lying to consumers about their devices and network capabilities. AT&T labels their HSDPA release 5 network and compatible devices as 4G to consumers when it is clearly mid-level 3G technology by 3GPP, the international 3G technical organization. The HP Veer 4G, the HTC Inspire 4G, the Motorola Atrix 4G are all HSDPA release 5 devices. AT&T has even reffered to HSDPA and HSPA+ networks in the past as 3G, but has only recently changed itâ€™s tune and labeled these 3G technologies as 4G (examples 3G http://goo.gl/4B5Di; and http://goo.gl/yobaJ; 4G; http://goo.gl/g2HXa; http://goo.gl/DwTin) What stands out the most to me is that the manufacturs of the devices know these phones dont have 4G capabilites, but AT&T markets them as such, even when the manufactors have identical devices in international markets without the 4G label (Motorola Atrix; AT&T http://goo.gl/DwTin; international http://goo.gl/v2an5). What stops them from continuing this trend and labeling their existing 3G network as 4G and stopping or slowing its 4G build out? The former monopoly of â€œMa Bellâ€ that was killed for the improvements for consumers and competition has returned, T-1000 style, with AT&T and Verizon. This time instead of 90% of wire line communications in the hands of two, its going to be the wireless communications are country will thrive on for the next 100 years.

I have been a general manager for a Verizon sales team; a sales representative for AT&T Mobility, AT&T U-Verse, US Cellular, and T-Mobile; a former sales and technical support representative for Sprint and Sprint PCS; and a former technical support representative for Cricket wireless; I feel I can come from a unique perspective. My time at all these companies have all been different, as they all have a unique corporate personalities. In my eyes you have two classes of service providers. The â€œGood Credit or Primeâ€ providers are Verizon and AT&T, and then you have the â€œBad Credit or Sub-Primeâ€ providers as Sprint, T-Mobile, US Cellular, Cricket, etc. Verizon and AT&T have set up barriers to entry that makes it harder for Americas to access basic necessary services such as phone, Internet and TV services. The prime providers charge extremely high deposits and price their pre-paid services mostly to the point of being barely competitive. Their monthly chargers also average about 15-20% more than their competition. Verizon and AT&T both claim the most advanced networks, with FTTP, FTTN, and 4G services. But from my time in in my positions in 5 major markets across the country, there is even often physical barriers to their most advanced services. Verizon and AT&T have both chosen to not install FiOS and U-Verse in parts of their service area with major minority populations and lower incomes. The sub-prime providers all try innovative ways to get as many people access as possible with lower prices, lower deposits, spending limits, and unique services and features. They lack however, is the unfair scale advantages of the prime providers.

Just to be clear, I am 100% opposed to the proposed AT&T and T-Mobile merger. It the FCC and government regulators approve this merger, then the steps the DOJ took in 1974 and ended with the break up of AT&T in 1984, where for nothing. That one decision drove the communications revolution on the 80â€™s that lead to the Internet revolution of the 90â€™s and 00â€™s. We are at another crossroads, we can continue the duopoly building consolidations and return to the market stagnation of the 50â€™s and 60â€™s, or allow the market to be competitive on multiple levels. The continued competitiveness in the wireless industry will help spur this country as we are in the beginning surge of the wireless revolution.